

SELECTIONS
FROM THE
VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE
PUNJAB, NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES, OUDH, AND
CENTRAL PROVINCES,

Received up to 31st July, 1870.

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POLITICAL (DOMESTIC).

THE *Oudh Akhbār* of the 19th July has a long article on the measures to be taken for checking female infanticide.

The origin of the custom is traced primarily to the war-like spirit of the Kshatriyas, which led them to fear lest they should be overcome by means of their women if they gave them in marriage to other families. The relics of this feeling are to be seen in the distaste still shown by them to be addressed as father-in-law and brother-in-law; and, secondly, to the custom of excessive expenditure on marriages, initiated by the Kanauji Brahmans, and followed more or less by all the Hindú castes. This custom is maintained to these days mainly by the influence of popular opinion, and fear of losing social position among the brotherhood.

There is no hope that the influence of these two motives can be broken without the interference of Government; and this, to be effectual, should be twofold—by imperative rules carried out through the Judicial Officers, and by conciliatory and friendly action directed towards the enlightenment of the people. Both these classes of measures, the writer admits, have already been brought into play; but he asks for a more special use than is now made of education in furtherance of the good cause.

Children are most easily and most lastingly impressed when young ; and if simple stories and tales treating of this subject were introduced into schools, especially those for girls, they could not fail to exert great influence. Such books should not be difficult to compile. They should be directed chiefly to showing the enormity of the crime, its certain consequences in ruin and disgrace to the murderers, its condemnation by the principles of religion, and such like topics.

To get rid of the other motive,—fear of disgrace in the eyes of the brotherhood,—no doubt much trust must be placed in general enlightenment. But this will be but a slow agent ; and it is therefore essential for Government to aid it in directing public opinion by laying down imperative rules. If a certain limit were fixed by law for marriage expenses, no one would be induced to exceed it by fear of the brotherhood ; and all would attain that which each man desires in his inmost heart without incurring any public disgrace. Some fixed percentage should be levied from all expenditure over this limit as a penalty for exceeding it ; or it might be ruled that any person wishing to celebrate a marriage should deposit in the Government treasury twice or thrice the amount he proposes to spend, in proof of his ability to bear the expense.

These rules and orders should be kept constantly before the minds of the people by frequent publication, and the subject never be allowed to drop.

The *Akhbár-i-Alum* of the 21st July condemns the existing system of examining Junior Civil Officers in the vernaculars. It is said that these gentlemen learn all that they are ever taught of the languages in England before they come out ; that after their arrival in this country they are immediately posted to their stations in the Mofussil, and a few months after examined by a divisional committee in the vernacular of their Province : from thenceforth they are free from examinations for the rest of their lives.

The effect of this is that they gradually forget all they have learnt; and, as they rise in office, become more and more incapable of understanding the literary and cultivated language of the natives. It is not denied that they acquire from habit a certain acquaintance with the vulgar speech; but this is a widely different thing from a proper educated knowledge of the language. A Persian or Arab boor speaks Persian or Arabic as his mother tongue, but he cannot without explanation understand a line of the Gulistan or the Koran.

The writer has seen Collectors and Judges and Commissioners utterly unable to read a line of written Urdú, or to understand a page of a fairly written book.

The remedy he proposes is to require each Civilian and Military officer in Civil employ to pass an examination in the vernacular every year before a duly qualified committee, which should comprise at least three well-educated natives, and not consist, as at present, only of English officers, themselves probably more ignorant than the examinees. According to the proficiency shown in these examinations, promotion ought to be awarded: for it cannot be denied that the main requirement for a just discharge of the duties of a Judicial Officer is a proper understanding of the language in which cases are argued in the Courts.

The *Majma-ul-Bahrain* of the same date reports that the Municipal Committee of Ghaziabad is perfectly indifferent to the cleanliness of the town, and that the streets and lanes are allowed to remain in so filthy and foul a state that there is room to fear lest an epidemic should break out.

The same paper reports that robbery prevails to an alarming extent in Múltán. The writer supports the assertion by referring to an instance in which a person travelling from Bháwalpore to that city, with a sum of Rs. 4,500 in cash, was attacked by a robber on the way, who killed him and ran away with the money.

The *Panjābī Akhbār* of the 23rd July states that cases of theft and robbery are too frequent in Allahabad. In support of this statement the editor enumerates the following, which are said to have happened within the space of a few days :—

(a.) All the property and valuables in a *baniya's* house were plundered.

(b.) A Christian was robbed of the whole of his household goods.

(c.) A thief ran off with a Bábú's turban, a gold chain, and Rs. 5 in cash. This happened in Canning-road, in the very heart of the station.

(d.) At 8 P. M. one night, daring robberies were committed in three or four bungalows; even the servants of Mr. Mayne, the Commissioner, were robbed.

In one case a party of thieves rushed into a bungalow, and on being prevented by a servant who was in attendance, severely wounded him with a sword.

In another instance, a band of robbers reached so far as the verandah of a bungalow, and were about to enter, when the master of the house, who fortunately happened to be awake, fired a musket, which frightened them and made them run away. The servants at the bungalow state that the robbers were armed with lances and swords, and were twenty-five in number.

Such misrule in the very capital of the Government, North-Western Provinces, remarks the editor, reflects great discredit on the British administration.

The *Rohilkhund Akhbār* of the 23rd July approves of Lord Mayo's proposals to extend the system of advances to zemindars and cultivators to enable them to improve their lands and construct wells, water-courses, &c. He sets down the Governor-General's liberal policy to the fact that he is himself a large landed-proprietor, and is well acquainted with the necessities of agriculture. It is hoped that Local Governments will return a favourable answer to his enquiries.

The same paper has the following, to disprove the necessity of the imposition of the income-tax:—

“Some people think that undue precipitation was exercised in enforcing the taxation scheme. This was due to the precaution and farsightedness of Lord Mayo, who was alarmed on finding a deficit in the Indian Budget, and, with statesman-like policy, thought it prudent to lose no time in providing against it,—hence the new income-tax. Were it not for this precipitation it would have been found, on examining the several items which compose the Indian revenue, that the imposition of the tax was quite uncalled for. Among other items, we find that the income from the excise on salt for the current year shows an increase of thirty lacs over that of the past.”

#### EDUCATIONAL.

The *Màrwàr Gazette* of the 18th July notices the exertions of Nawab Mohammed Mardán Alí Khán, Minister of Jodhpore, in the cause of education. It is stated that under his auspices a vernacular school has been opened in each pergunnah of the principality, to be maintained entirely at the cost of the State.

Hindí is the only language taught at present; but it is proposed to add an English class after the schools have made a fair progress.

The Nawáb also takes an active interest in the Anglo-Vernacular School in the city. This institution is supported by the Mahárája at a monthly cost of Rs. 500, and is reported to be in a flourishing condition. It is well provided with the necessary school apparatus, and imparts instruction in English, Hindí, Persian, Arabic, and Sanscrit,—the last three languages having been added to the course of study only recently.

The *Agra Akbàr* of the 20th July notices the establishment by Janí Biháí Lál, Financial Minister of Bhartpore, of a school in Gokulpúrá, a village in the Agra district, for imparting religious instruction.

The institution is the first of its kind in Agra, and the editor praises the minister for setting on foot a seminary which will confer much good, and instruct and reclaim from vicious habits numbers of children who now while away their time in wandering about the streets.

The *Panjábi Akhbár* of the 23rd July reports the proceedings of a meeting held in Amritsar on the 14th July to congratulate Sir D. F. McLeod, late Lieutenant-Governor of the Panjáb, on his arrival in that city, and invites attention to the subscription of Rs. 2,000 raised by the gentlemen of that city to be devoted to some useful purpose in commemoration of His Honor's beneficent rule, and the hearty interest he took in promoting the welfare of the people of the Panjáb during his administration of that Province.

The amount is to be laid out in founding scholarships in His Honor's name, to be given to the best boys of the Amritsar School to aid them in proceeding to the Panjáb University to complete their education. For the present the money has been deposited in the Bank of Bengal, and placed to the credit of the University.

The *Shola-i-Tár* of the 26th July, in alluding to the feeling that has grown up among the Bengális at Calcutta against allowing Christian Missionaries to have any connection with native female schools, simply because of the conversion to Christianity of a Bengálí widow, thinks it a great mistake that an incident which happened by a mere chance should so far prejudice the Bábus against the Missionaries as to induce them to reject their invaluable aid in the education of their women. "Of a truth," says he, "the ladies of the Missionaries are doing much in the cause of female education. In Delhi, for instance, some four or five of them are exerting their utmost, and their endeavours are likely to be crowned with success and to produce very good results. A good house is being built for their residence, which will cost some 15,000 or 16,000 rupees, out of which 3,000 have been paid by the Maharája of Pa-

tyála. It is strange that while in one place such attention is paid by the natives of India to the accommodation of Christian ladies, in another they should be treated with so much unkindness that people should think of refusing them admittance into their houses."

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

The *Kavi Bachan Sudhá* of the 12th of July thinks it highly fortunate for India that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales is to honour her with a visit in the coming year ; but remarks that since on the occasion of the Duke of Edinburgh's arrival Lord Mayo imposed an increased tax on the people, it is to be feared lest this second royal visit should result in their being stripped of their all.

The *Márwár Gazette* of the 18th July denies the statement made in the *Benares Gazette* of the 23rd June, and quoted in a late number of the Selections, that His Highness the Mahárája of Jodhpore and his sister intend shortly to undertake a journey to England.

The *Oudh Akhbár* of the 19th July publishes in its correspondence a letter from Pandit Sheo Narayan, Secretary of the Jalsae Tahzîb, in which he sets forth the advantages which would result from the establishment of societies for the purchase of newspapers, such as are common in Europe. The cost to each member would be but a trifle, while all would participate in the benefits of the subscription paid to the newspapers by the whole society.

He urges that some such societies could easily be established by village school teachers, who might associate with themselves either the educated persons of the village, if there be any, or else the most intelligent boys in their schools ; and recommends the plan to the attention of the Educational Departments of the North-Western Provinces, Oudh, and the Punjáb.

The *Panjábí Akhbár* of the 23rd July has a communicated article upon the extortions practised upon visitors by orderlies and chuprassies. He complains that it is impossible to gain access to European officers without the payment of a fee of at least two rupees for each visit, and appeals to them to put a stop to this oppressive practice. It is a thing known to every one that such fees are taken: and the way in which menials who get only Rs. 4 a month dress, and the number of relations and hangers-on whom they support, is a patent proof that they cannot rely upon their pay alone for maintenance.

The same paper expresses a hope that the progress which has been made in instructing midwives in the practice of their art will prove beneficial to the people at large. In addition to the institutions which have been established for their instruction in the Panjáb, it is noticed that several schools for this purpose have been set on foot in the North-Western Provinces, and notably at Bareilly. It is said that a pupil of this latter school has shown herself very expert, and acquired considerable knowledge of the use of different medicines.

The interest taken in the subject by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces is said to be a guarantee for the success of the experiment.

The *Rohilkhund Akhbár* of the same date, in alluding to the case of a woman at Ghazeepore who died of a snake-bite on account of no antidote being forthcoming betimes, suggests that, in order to prevent such fatal delays in procuring it, each Police-station should be provided with antidotes, which should be procurable there at all times.

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The following Vernacular newspapers have been examined  
in this report, viz. :—

| No. | NAME.                                             | WHERE PUB-<br>LISHED. | DATE.    | WHEN RE-<br>CEIVED. |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------|---------------------|
|     |                                                   |                       | 1870.    | 1870.               |
| 1   | <i>Dabdaba-i-Sikandarí,</i> ...                   | Rampore, ...          | July 4th | July 26th           |
| 2   | <i>Vidyá Vilás,</i> ...                           | Jammu, ...            | " 9th    | " 28th              |
| 3   | <i>Matla-i-Núr,</i> ...                           | Cawnpore, ...         | " 11th   | " 26th              |
| 4   | <i>Kavi Bachan Sudhá,</i> ...                     | Benares, ...          | " 12th   | " 26th              |
| 5   | <i>Málwa Akhbár,</i> ...                          | Indore, ...           | " 13th   | " 23rd              |
| 6   | <i>Rifáh-i-Khaláiq,</i> ...                       | Shajehanpore, ...     | " 15th   | " 28th              |
| 7   | <i>Kárnámah,</i> ...                              | Lucknow, ...          | " 18th   | " 25th              |
| 8   | <i>Márwár Gazette,</i> ...                        | Jodhpore, ...         | " 18th   | " 27th              |
| 9   | <i>Oudh Akhbár,</i> ...                           | Lucknow, ...          | " 19th   | " 25th              |
| 10  | <i>Akmal-ul-Akhbár,</i> ...                       | Delhi, ...            | " 20th   | " 25th              |
| 11  | <i>Agra Akhbár,</i> ...                           | Agra, ...             | " 20th   | " 27th              |
| 12  | <i>Benares Akhbár,</i> ...                        | Benares, ...          | " 21st   | " 25th              |
| 13  | <i>Jagat Samáchár,</i> ...                        | Meerut, ...           | " 21st   | " 27th              |
| 14  | <i>Mufid-ul-Anám</i> ...                          | Futtehgurh, ...       | " 21st   | " 27th              |
| 15  | <i>Akhbár-i-'Alam,</i> ...                        | Meerut, ...           | " 21st   | " 27th              |
| 16  | <i>Majma-ul-Bahrain,</i> ...                      | Ludhiana, ...         | " 21st   | " 28th              |
| 17  | <i>Allygurh Institute Gazette,</i> ...            | Allygurh, ...         | " 22nd   | " 25th              |
| 18  | <i>Jalwa-i-Túr,</i> ...                           | Meerut, ...           | " 22nd   | " 25th              |
| 19  | <i>Rajputána Social Science<br/>Congress,</i> ... | } Jaipore, ...        | " 22nd   | " 27th              |
| 20  | <i>Urdú Delhi Gazette,</i> ...                    | Agra, ...             | " 23rd   | " 25th              |
| 21  | <i>Meerut Gazette,</i> ...                        | Meerut, ...           | " 23rd   | " 27th              |
| 22  | <i>Panjábi Akhbár,</i> ...                        | Lahore, ...           | " 23rd   | " 28th              |
| 23  | <i>Rohilkhund Akhbár,</i> ...                     | Muradabad, ...        | " 23rd   | " 28th              |
| 24  | <i>Anjuman-i-Hind,</i> ...                        | Lucknow, ...          | " 23rd   | " 28th              |
| 25  | <i>Kárnámah,</i> ...                              | Ditto, ...            | " 25th   | " 28th              |
| 26  | <i>Shola-i-Túr,</i> ...                           | Cawnpore, ...         | " 26th   | " 28th              |

ALLAHABAD :  
The 8th August, 1870. }

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